



**For Immediate Release:** Monday, June 1, 2020

**Contact:** Nate Goehring, [Nathaniel.Goehring@berlinrosen.com](mailto:Nathaniel.Goehring@berlinrosen.com)

## **In Time For the First Day of Hurricane Season, New Regional Campaign For Climate Resilience Gains Force**

“Rise to Resilience” coalition reaches more than 50 members across New York and New Jersey, prepares for broader day of action and policy platform unveil in July

**New York, NY** — On the first day of hurricane season, the [Rise to Resilience](#) coalition announced that it is rapidly gaining momentum among community leaders, advocates and businesses in New York and New Jersey. The campaign has secured the support of more than 50 new partners since its launch at a virtual conference attended by hundreds of public, private and nonprofit stakeholders including Senator Cory Booker and NYC Comptroller Stringer in May.

“Today is a reminder of the urgency that is required of our response to the climate crisis,” said Roland Lewis, President and CEO of the Waterfront Alliance. “Under normal circumstances, we are not prepared for the reality of another Hurricane Sandy; amid a pandemic recovery, the prospect is exponentially more alarming. Creating a real framework for resilience in our region is going to require three things: first, smart and tangible policy solutions; second, a broad community-based advocacy effort; and third, action from elected officials. The Rise to Resilience coalition is gearing up to put the first two elements in motion this summer as we push for meaningful changes at every level of government in 2020 and beyond.”

Next month, the Rise to Resilience campaign will unveil a comprehensive set of resilience policy recommendations and solutions for federal, state and local government on “Rise Up Friday”, July 10. It will celebrate the launch of its platform with a virtual day of action including an online rally with elected officials and coalition partners. The campaign is focused on responding practically to the complex climate, social and economic circumstances before our region.

Inaugural coalition partners of the new regional movement for climate adaptation and preparedness include: Alice Austin House; Anchor Coalition; Billion Oyster Project; Brooklyn Greenway Initiative; BRS, Inc.; Coney Island Beautification Project; Earth Celebrations; Environmental Defense Fund Field Operations; Future City Inc.; Gowanus Dredgers; Hackensack Riverkeeper; Hutchinson River Restoration Project; Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership (LRWP); National Parks Conservation Association, Northeast Region; Natural Areas Conservancy; New Jersey Future; New Jersey League of Conservation Voters; New Jersey Voluntary Organizations Active In Disaster; NYC Audubon; NYC Soil & Water Conservation District; Newtown Creek Alliance; New York Building Congress; New Yorkers for Parks; New York League of Conservation Voters; Ocean Bay CDC; Raritan Riverkeeper; Rebuild by Design; Red Hook Initiative; Red Hook Terminals; Regional Plan Association; Resilient Red Hook; Riverkeeper;



Rockaway Initiative for Sustainability and Equity (RISE); Row New York; Save the Sound; Solar One; Stepping Stones Resources; Stormwater Infrastructure Matters (SWIM) Coalition; Surfrider Foundation; SWA/Balsley; The Center For NYC Neighborhoods; The General Contractors Association of New York; The Municipal Art Society of New York; The Trust for Public Land; The Wildlife Conservation Society's New York Aquarium; TUFF-LES (Tenants United Fighting For the Lower East Side); Two Trees; Waggoner & Ball; Waterfront Alliance; WE ACT for Environmental Justice.

"Hurricane season brings the imminent threat of a flooding crisis, which we fear that our regional infrastructure is not prepared to handle while we move through recovery from COVID-19," said **Pete Kasabach, Executive Director of New Jersey Future**. "It is important that re-double our efforts to address climate change and the flooding it brings with bold new policies and actions that will result in meaningful results for our waterfront."

"New Jerseyans and New Yorkers who live on the waterfront could live in permanently-flooded areas in the coming decades," said **Peggy Shepard, Co-Founder and Executive Director of WE ACT for Environmental Justice and a Waterfront Alliance trustee**. "Of those residents, it's often lower-income communities who are most vulnerable. This campaign is working to ensure that the policy solutions of this campaign will simultaneously emphasize equity while addressing resiliency, and our coalition continues to convene diverse stakeholders with necessary perspectives that inform our policy priorities."

"Our public infrastructure is more than weathered, and another flooding event could be catastrophic," said **Chris Ward, former Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey**. "Flooding has damaging impacts, which our infrastructure felt massively during Superstorm Sandy and has yet to completely recover from. By building with resilience in mind, we can proactively mitigate disasters and protect our communities."

###

The [Waterfront Alliance](#) inspires and effects resilient, revitalized, and accessible coastlines for all communities.